

the stamp honoring those who serve, the hospice stamp, and the adoption stamp.

Mr. Hawkins has been active in Fresno's civic life, working with the Sister Cities Organization and making a presentation and tour of the Fresno postal facilities to Fresno's sister city in China.

In recognition of Mr. Hawkins' outstanding communications and community outreach, he was awarded with the Postal Service's prestigious Benjamin Award for four years in a row.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Stephen J. Hawkins on his retirement and in wishing him continued success in the future.

LEADERSHIP WILKES-BARRE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Leadership Wilkes-Barre on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. The mission of this distinguished organization is to develop informed and committed leaders from all segments of the community who will serve, strengthen and improve Northeastern Pennsylvania, and it is doing exactly that.

Leadership Wilkes-Barre began in 1981, when then-Chamber of Commerce Director John Sheehan proposed the idea to community leaders Tom Bigler, John Conyngham, Ed Schechter and the late Tom Kiley, who together formed the steering committee.

The inaugural class of 20 graduated in June 1982. Since then, the program has grown and now has 648 graduates, with a depth of experience and a diversity of backgrounds from India and Iran to Clarks Summit and Shickshinny. The graduates of Leadership Wilkes-Barre are putting their skills to work on hundreds of community projects and volunteer boards throughout the region and the state.

Since its founding, the organization has expanded by adding the Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre program for high school students in 1986 and the Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre program in 1987. The Intercollegiate program serves students from College Misericordia, Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes University.

In 1999, the organization developed Masters Leadership Wilkes-Barre, designed to give retired and semi-retired members of the community a chance to become more involved in community service. Over the 20 years of Leadership Wilkes-Barre's existence, there have been 2,013 participants in its programs.

Mr. Speaker, the driving force behind this record of accomplishment and service is Executive Director Sue Kluger, a founding board member who has led the organization since 1983. I am pleased to call her hard work and the many achievements of Leadership Wilkes-Barre to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I wish her and the fine organization she leads many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS—LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the 2000 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. This past season the Ludlow boys team compiled a record of 19–0–3 en route to earning the Smith Division League Championship, the Western Massachusetts Division I Championship, and the Massachusetts Division I State Championship. Their efforts enabled them to earn a top five ranking nationally.

Not only did the boys team finish the season undefeated, but their 2000 campaign marked the first time in Massachusetts history that a boys soccer team won four consecutive Western Massachusetts Division I titles. Also, the Lions have won back to back State titles, the first time this has been done in Massachusetts in 35 years. Ludlow High School has a fine and proud tradition in boys soccer play. The school has earned thirteen State titles and twenty-six Western Massachusetts championships.

At the Lions' coaching helm was Tony Goncalves. He and his staff have fine tuned their team's athletic skill and have instilled poise, discipline, and sportsmanship into their players. Coach Goncalves and his staff have certainly earned their reputation as one of the finest coaching staffs in all of New England. I would also like to note that included in this year's team are seven players that were named to the All-Western Massachusetts squad, three players named to the All-State team, and two players receiving All-New England honors.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 2000 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The seniors are: Helder Pires, Jay Devlin, Mike Pio, Joey Jorge, Ray Cheria, Brian Cochenour, Tim Romansky, Paulo Dias, Dennis Carvalho, Paulo Martins, Steve Jorge, Manny Goncalves, and Chris Chelo. Juniors include: Joe Shanley, Seth Falconer, Kevin Keough, and Sebastian Priest. The Sophomores are: Kevin Chelo, Sven Pfefferkorn, Michael Lima, Tyler Severyn, Josh Naginewicz, Casey Siok, and Corey Mange. The Head Coach is Tony Goncalves. Assistant Coaches are Jack Vilaca, Greg Kolodziej, and Dan Pires. Team managers are Sarah Russell, Jill Dube, and Jenn Russell.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to send my congratulations to the Ludlow High School boys soccer team on their outstanding season. I wish them the best of luck in the 2001 season.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA ON JANUARY 26, 2001, AND SUPPORT FOR ONGOING AID EFFORTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me greatly to have to introduce this resolution along with my colleagues, our effort to support the victims of the catastrophic earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, on the very day the people of India were to celebrate the adoption of their first constitution as an independent people.

On January 26, the people of Gujarat in western India were hit with an earthquake the size and devastation of that which hit San Francisco in 1906 killing more than 30,000.

As a fellow democracy we must provide the people of India immediate relief, economic assistance and the reconstruction efforts needed to rebuild the lives and the state of Gujarat.

I have had the pleasure of visiting India on a number of occasions and have established a candid and sincere relationship with the Indian community, both in my congressional district in Florida and abroad.

Several governments have taken action and are providing assistance to the people of India in determining what needs are to be met during this critical time of despair. Notably, the government and people of Pakistan have been quick to send aid and much needed supplies. I am hopeful that their friendship will continue far beyond this difficult period. Moreover, I believe it is America's duty to lend a helping hand to our great neighbors.

India and its people need us and it is our duty to expedite immediate assistance in reconstructing their lives and concretely showing our continued friendship and support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent for all legislative business during the week of January 29, 2001 through February 2, 2001, due to a medical condition. As a result, I missed the following votes: On Tuesday, January 30, 2001—question "On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended" (Roll No. 5) for issue H.R. 93—Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Fairness Act. On Wednesday, January 31, 2001—question "On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree" (Roll No. 6) for issue H. Con. Res. 14—Permitting the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a Ceremony as part of the Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust, question "On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree" (Roll No. 7) for issue H. Con. Res. 15—Expressing Sympathy for the Victims of the Devastating Earthquake that Struck India, and question "On Approving the Journal" (Roll No. 8) for issue Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for